

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

February 2013

Lent: Looking inward, looking outward

For some of us, Lent is a time to look inward, to consider where we are in our spiritual lives and to do something that will help us grow spiritually. It may be a time to pray more, pray differently, break a bad habit, or perform acts of penance. If this is your “Plan A” approach to Lent, then the traditions of prayer and fasting probably speak to you.

For others, Lent is a time to look outward, to notice and address inequities and injustice in the world. It may be a time to find a way to serve the poor, or contact civic leaders about injustices, or support organizations that work for the common good. If this is your “Plan A,” then the tradition of almsgiving probably makes sense to you.

Both approaches to Lent, the inward and the outward, have spiritual value and offer us ways to grow.

Indeed, our inward life—our prayers, thoughts, and attitudes, and the Spirit of God within us—affects how we act in daily



life. Likewise, our outward actions affect what things we pray and think about. Ideally, these two lives grow together, each feeding the other, producing a basic integrity.

Think about how you have kept Lent for the past few years. If you’ve usually looked inward, maybe this is the year to look outward. Try out a new kind of service, or choose a way to engage your faith in civic life. If you’ve been more outward-oriented, consider looking inward this year. Seek out ways to grow in prayer, to deepen your understanding of our faith and the scriptures, or to work on a habit or attitude that is hurting your spiritual life.

Whatever you undertake this Lent, whether looking inward or looking outward, whether your plans succeed or fail, your constant companion will be our loving Lord. Seek to do something that responds to that love, ask for help, and your Lenten season will be blessed indeed!

Who will take their place? Will it be you?

Amy Fahey, Mark Cousert, and Judy Altaner are nearing the completion of their three-year terms of membership on our Parish Council. You—yes, *you*—are invited to fill one of the vacancies this creates. Are you up for the challenge?



Amy Fahey



Judy Altaner



Mark Cousert

Give this invitation serious consideration, and pray for God’s guidance to understand what God wants for you. If the idea of it “fits,” contact a Council member or a member of the parish staff to “put your name in the hat,” as it were, for service to our pastor and our parishioners as a member of the Parish Council.

If you have questions about what’s involved, check out the information in the front pages of the ministry booklet or call a Council member. The phone numbers of outgoing members are here for your

Filipino tradition takes root in East Central Illinois

Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, is a series of novena Masses preparing for celebrating the birth of Christ. *Simbang Gabi*, literally “going to Mass in the evening,” is also known as *Misa de Aquinaldo*, or “Mass at dawn.”

This tradition began four centuries ago during the early years of Christianity in the Philippines. Today it is still widely practiced throughout the country, and happily upheld by Filipino immigrants to the United States.

Originally the *Simbang Gabi* was held at around 4 a.m. before farmers went to the fields. In recent years, however, *Simbang Gabi* Masses in the Philippines have been held in the evening as well, to accommodate the volume of churchgoers and urban life.



U.S.? It is an expression of the Filipino culture, religiosity, and spirituality. It strengthens the faith of the larger church community by promoting the values “maka-Dios” (pro-God), “maka-tao” (pro-people), “maka-bayan” (patriotism), “maka-buhay” (pro-life), and “maka-Kalikasan” (integrity of creation/environment). It celebrates stewardship, bringing awareness of God’s generosity and God as the origin and end of all things. It is an act of thanksgiving. Above all, it is rooted in faith, centered on the manger: it is biblical, eschatological, Marian, and Eucharistic.

This year’s celebration rotated among the following participating churches: St. John’s Chapel, Champaign; St. Mary’s Church, Champaign; St. Matthew’s Church, Champaign; St. Patrick’s Church, Urbana; and St. Paul’s Church, Danville. Watch for it next year at a church near you!



This is the seventh year the Filipino community of East Central Illinois (Champaign-Urbana and Danville) have sponsored *Simbang Gabi* Masses, starting Dec. 16 and ending Dec. 24. After Mass, churchgoers were invited to a light breakfast.

Why celebrate *Simbang Gabi* in the

Living Faith: Feeding God’s People

I volunteer at St. Patrick’s as a Eucharistic minister, and I set up twice a month for the Sunday 7:30 a.m. Mass. Why?



Celebrating with a community of believers: When I moved to Urbana about ten years ago, I was a recent widow looking to belong to a faith community that reached out to the larger community through service. The parish I belonged to in the Chicago area was amazing with its involvement in many faith and social services to marginal folks in the city and suburbs. I spent several months visiting and talking with people from the Catholic churches and chapels in the Champaign-Urbana area. Although they all had programs of outreach, St. Patrick’s parishioners, programs, and proximity just seemed to “click” with my need for a committed community of believers.

Continuing a family tradition of Church service: I grew up in an Austrian-American household that put a premium on service to the Church and the enjoyment of celebrations (especially anything related to food). My brother, sisters, and I were expected to carry on this tradition. My parents were involved with ushering and Altar and Rosary Society, while my siblings and I were involved as altar servers, choir, religious education, and teen club.

As an adult, I had volunteered to be involved in various community celebrations, events, and festivals, and then as a Eucharistic minister. It seemed only natural that I would continue this volunteer service at St. Patrick’s. I firmly believe that women should be more involved in the celebration of the Mass! Unfortunately, my work and teaching at the University do not always allow me the time to get involved with many of our parish’s celebrations

Faith from page 2

and festivals, but I bake goodies when I can.

Awed by the service of others:

Many community groups have a few folks who always help out but stay behind the scenes. They give their time and talents tirelessly for the good of the group. I saw this at St. Patrick's and was awed by their spirit of community and service. While sitting in the pew during St. Patrick's "Time and Talent" drive, I thought about how much they give all the time and how little I am doing. Although I have a full-time job, I thought I could at least add setting up for the 7:30 Mass since I would be at church already. I could also use the extra time after setting up (it takes only 15-20 minutes) to reflect on my life in the past week and how I could improve.

—Barbara Schleicher

Prayer on the World Day of the Sick

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11

Watch, dear Mother,
with your children who wake,
Or watch, or weep tonight.
Tend your sick ones,
Rest your weary ones,
Bless your dying ones,
Soothe your suffering ones,
Pity your afflicted ones,
Shield your joyous ones,
And all for your Love's sake.

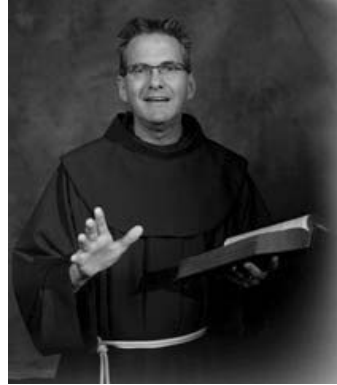


Parish Mission opens the door to Lent

January is a traditional time to make resolutions to help ourselves through the coming year. These resolutions may be radical or incremental, designed to improve bodily, mental, and/or spiritual health. The New Year seems a fitting time to make these resolutions, when the months ahead stretch out like a blank sheet of paper waiting to be filled in. While we may not always keep our resolutions to the letter, the very act of making them, the mere intention, valuably lets us consider what exactly is important to us.

This year we are being given help with resolutions to deepen our spiritual life: a parish mission will be held Feb. 2 to 6. Occurring just before Lent, which begins Feb. 13, the mission will also prepare us for this liturgical season. It lets us "come away a while" and take time to nourish our spirit. It invites us to step into a quiet place, to set aside the workaday world while we deepen our relationship with our loving God.

The mission will be led by Fr. Albert Haase, OFM. (Born in New Orleans, he uses the French pronunciation of his first name, "Al-bear.") He has chosen the theme "Signed and Sealed with the Cross" for our mission. Through scripture, song, and preaching, we will explore the identity of our God proclaimed in the ancient gesture of being signed with a cross. We will also explore the challenges and responsibilities we accept when we seal our lives



Fr. Albert Haase, OFM

with the sign of our salvation. Do we make the gesture of signing ourselves out of habit, like shooing away flies, or do we fully embrace its meaning every time?

Fr. Haase was ordained a Franciscan priest in 1983. He was a missionary to China for eleven years, and has written six books on spirituality. He directs

the International Institute for Clergy Formation based at Seton Hall University, and co-hosts the show "Spirit and Life" on the Relevant Radio Network. Fr. Albert preaches retreats and parish missions and teaches adult education courses for many Catholic parishes. He also trains spiritual directors for the Dioceses of Peoria and Springfield (www.albertofm.org).

We will welcome Fr. Albert the weekend of Feb. 2-3, when he will preach at all the Masses at St. Patrick's. Then we will join in evening services on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in St. Patrick's church. Each service will start with a song and prayer, followed by a scripture reading and sung response, the proclamation of the gospel, and Fr. Albert's mission presentation. The service will conclude with the Lord's Prayer, greeting of peace, blessing, and a final song. A reception in the main hall will follow each service.

Whether you are a resolution maker or not, plan to attend the parish mission in February and deepen your understanding of what it means to be "signed and sealed with the Cross."

The Seven Holy Founders: Inspiration for modern times

Can you imagine seven prominent men in Boston or San Francisco banding together, leaving their homes and professions, and going into solitude for a life directly given to God? That's what happened in the cultured and prosperous city of Florence in the thirteenth century. Florence was polarized into rival political factions, and although there were still good people of devotion, many considered religion a waste of time and there was a general relaxation of morals.

During these years seven young Florentine merchants from prominent families came together to pray, became friends, and eventually took the first step to abandon their business world. Between 1225 and 1227, they joined the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin and came to the realization that they were called to a life of renunciation of the world in favor of Our Lady. On the feast of the Assumption, as the seven were praying, they saw Our Lady in a vision and were inspired by her to withdraw from the world to a solitary place where they could live for God alone.

It was difficult for the seven to cast off the bonds of the world. The two who were married and the two more who were widowers had to make provisions for their dependents. The bishop eventually approved their withdrawal to a house outside the walls of Florence where they could worship God. Before long they found themselves continually disturbed by visitors from the city. To escape the distractions of civil discord, they withdrew to the desolate slopes of Monte Senario, where they built a simple church and hermitage and lived in extreme austerity.

Visitors still found their way to the hermits and voiced their desire to join them, but for several years the hermits refused to accept any recruits. Then both their bishop and Cardinal Castiglione visited the hermits and exhorted them to listen to the counsel of their superiors. While the hermits prayed for light,



they had another vision of Our Lady. She held in her hand a black habit; an angel at her side held a scroll inscribed with the title Servants of Mary. Mary told them she had chosen them to be her servants and that she wished them to wear the black habit and follow the Rule of St. Augustine.

From that day, Apr. 13, 1240, they were known as the Servants of Mary, or Servites. According to custom they chose new names: Brothers Bonfilius, Alexis, Amadeus, Hugh, Sostenes, Manettus, and Buonaquinta. Later all became priests except for Alexis, who humbly begged to remain a brother.

Their new order took the form of mendicant (begging) friars rather than monastic orders. It increased rapidly, forming new houses all over Italy. Finally in 1304, the order received explicit and formal papal approbation. The Servites spread throughout Europe, and by today they are on every continent. In the U.S., Servites are best known for their Marian shrines, Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago and another in Portland, Oregon.

Servites include priests and brothers, cloistered nuns and active sisters, members of the Servite Secular Institute, the Servite Third Order, and the Confraternity of Our Lady of Sorrows. In the monastery, members lead a life of prayer, work, and silence, while in the active apostolate they engage in parochial work, teaching, and preaching.

The Seven Founders were noted for their unity despite coming from different factions in a city torn by civil strife. They lived together, prayed together, and were even buried in the same tomb. Their group canonization in 1888 is the only time a group other than martyrs has been so graced by the Church. Their feast day is observed on Feb. 17.

May the Seven Holy Founders serve as an example for our country, which like medieval Florence is similarly beset by hedonism and political discord.

Invitation from page 1

convenience (who knows better than someone who has served?): Amy Fahey, 714-6408; Mark Cousert, 621-7420; Judy Altaner, 351-3086.

The process of determining who will join the Council in May is different this year; it will be one of selection rather than election. That is, names of parishioners who have volunteered or been nominated by other parishioners will be forwarded to Oscar Gonzalez, Parish Council vice-president, by Mar. 1; he will contact the nominees to confirm their willingness to serve if selected and forward those names to the pastor. At a prayer service to which the nominees, Council members, and parishioners are invited, three names will be drawn and announced. (The date of this event has not yet been set, but it will precede the March Council meeting.)

How do you volunteer your name—or the names of other parishioners you believe would serve the parish well as Council members? Simply call any member of the Council, the staff, or the parish office (367-2665). But time is short so don't put it off: consider, pray, respond!



St. Patrick's Capital Campaign
We're getting closer!

Pledged: \$3,773,911 (94% of the goal)
Cash in hand: \$2,026,065 (51% of the goal)
What's needed before we can break ground:
Pledged: \$4.0M
Cash in hand: \$3.2M

Every Senior a winner

St. Patrick's Seniors met for their annual Christmas party with 25 Seniors present. Fr. Joel Phelps said grace and joined the group for lunch. Afterward, those present addressed 55 Christmas cards to shut-ins and another 50 cards were signed and given to Eucharistic ministers for handing out during their calls on seniors. At Bingo, each and every participant received a prize.



Are you eligible to membership? You bet—parishioners 60 or 55 or 50 years of age (they can't seem to settle on the minimum age when one may claim to be "senior") are not only eligible but encouraged to join in the group's quarterly social gatherings. The next meeting of the Seniors will be April 22. Are you coming?

Holy Cross Happenings

Holy Cross School celebrates Catholic Schools Week during the week of Jan. 27. The schedule includes an Open House on Jan. 30 from 9 a.m. to noon. The week culminates on Friday, Feb. 1 with an all-school Mass.

Also on Feb. 1, at 1 p.m., the students and staff will participate in a talent show.

If you'd like to enroll a future kindergartner at Holy Cross School, you're invited to attend the Kindergarten Open House on Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information on any of these events, please contact the school office (356-9521).



Catholic Schools Week will be observed at STM Jan. 28-Feb. 1. Highlights include Student Appreciation Day and Dressing Up for a Saber Day on Monday, Watch the Mighty Macs on Tuesday, Muffins with Moms and Donuts with Dads before school on Wednesday, Return of Alums on Thursday, and All School Mass on Friday.

STM's popular **soup bowl fundraiser** returns. Soup bowls made by students and faculty will be sold during the school's annual supper on Thursday, Feb. 7. For a donation of \$10 you will receive a simple (but tasty!) meal of soup (provided by Champaign's Destihl Restaurant), bread, and dessert—and the soup bowl of your choice. The bowl will go home with you as a reminder of the need to fill the stomachs of all those who are hungry.

CREW and Vivo are making plans

The junior high school students of Vivo are looking forward to a **ski trip in Galena**, near the Wisconsin border, at the nineteen trails of Chestnut Mountain (www.chestnutmtn.com). On Sunday, Feb. 17, the group will travel north and ski. After recuperating overnight in a hotel, they will ski again on Monday before heading home. The \$135 cost covers travel, lodging, and equipment rental. For more information, contact Amy Schuele (469-7941, aschuele@illinois.edu) or Peggy Loftus (979-7625, peggy.loftus@staturbana.org).

This May, instead of their traditional lock-in event the teens in CREW and CTC (Catholic Teen Connection) will attend a **retreat for all high school youth groups in the local vicariate**. This retreat is being offered by the NET team, at St. Mary's in Pesotum. As May approaches, watch for details in the weekly bulletin.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is **February 10**.

Prayer on expecting a baby

O God, it might seem odd to some to pray for someone not yet born—but not to you, and not to me. In these months of womanly patience, I have learned more than ever to marvel at your creative plans—and our part in them.

I rejoice that the fashioning of a baby, and the founding of a family, requires the gifts of body, mind, and spirit you have given to us each. Bless these days of waiting, of preparation, of tender hope. Let only things and thoughts that are clean and strong and glad be about us.

I give you thanks that from childhood till this experience of maturity you have made it both beautiful and natural for me to give love and to receive it.

In this newest experience hold us safe, relaxed, and full of eager hope—even as you count each life precious in your presence. Amen.

Evangelization: It's not just for non-believers

This year is one of great celebration and challenge for Catholics! Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed a Year of Faith to encourage us to immerse ourselves in our Catholicism.

For weeks now, our church bulletin has featured practical suggestions about how to deepen our faith and practice it more fully:

- Daily reading of scripture or the lives of the saints;
- Preparing more fully to enter into the mystery of the Mass;
- Taking advantage of study and prayer opportunities, either new or familiar to our Catholic heritage.

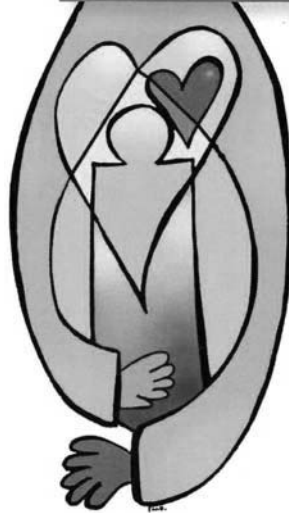
Evangelization is also a significant part of our Catholic responsibility, even if many of us find it terrifying. We imagine confronting strangers, challenging them like John the Baptist to “reform their lives.” More often, however, evangelizing means simply encouraging baptized Catholic friends and family who have neglected the practice of their faith to reconsider that deci-

sion. As disciples of Christ we should invite them to attend Mass; we should feel comfortable to bring up matters of faith. We should also make them aware of St. Patrick's Returning Catholics program—even offer to attend the sessions with them.

This year the Returning Catholics six-week sessions will begin on April 3 and again on July 10. Both are on Wednesdays – the former at 7 p.m., the latter at 12:10 p.m. In these sessions, we review the Mass and the sacraments, especially Reconciliation; we provide a non-judgmental environment for discussion and questions; we explain how marriage situations can be resolved; and we suggest practical ways to engage with other Catholics as well as parish programs and ministries.

For more information about this program, please contact the parish office (367-2665), Barbara Wysocki (367-5014), or Mary Lou Menches (344-1125); or check the weekly bulletin and the parish website.

This Is Your Invitation to Reconsider the Catholic Church



Announcing the 2012-13 schedule of sessions offered for returning Catholics:

- **Apr. 3 through May 8, 2013, 7-8:00 p.m.**
- **July 10 through Aug. 14, 2013, 12:10-12:50 p.m.** (brown-bag series)

All sessions are held once a week, on Wednesday. Individual conferences also available on request.

Returning Catholics Team

Youth Forum panelists are living out their faith

How are some young people living out their Catholic faith in their college and career choices? On Jan. 6, St. Patrick's parishioners had the opportunity to join members of CREW and Vivo to hear that question addressed at a youth forum sponsored by the Peace and Justice Ministry and the Women of St. Patrick.

The panelists, Cora Freidhof, Anna Mayer, and Melissa Carnall, first explained how they had arrived at their current occupations and then answered questions posed by the audience and by facilitator Stan Yanchus.

A lifelong parishioner and a veteran of five CREW mission trips, **Cora Freidhof** is currently a sophomore at Concordia College, where she intends to pursue degrees in social work.

Anna Mayer also grew up in St. Patrick's Parish. After graduating from Notre Dame University, where she studied sociology and psychology and participated in several service programs, Anna moved to Chicago. There she lived in Amate House, an intentional community of young adults established in 1984 by the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago which provides its volunteers with experiences of full-time service to people in need, community living, and faith formation. As part of this program Anna volunteered at Taller de José, an organization founded by the Sisters of Joseph, that helps poor immigrants connect with the resources they need to survive and to improve their lives. She is now an employee there.

Melissa Carnall met Anna in Amate House, where she came after graduating from college in North Carolina. Melissa is now pursuing graduate studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago with the intention of eventually entering religious life.

Each panelist talked about the challenges encountered in living out her Catholic faith. Cora spoke of how, as a student in Catholic elementary and high schools, she



Youth Forum panelists (from the left) Cora Freidhof, Anna Mayer, and Melissa Carnall spoke of the challenges and joys experienced in following one's call.

envisioned that when she was in college there would be a clear delineation of values: "Church-going on one side and drugs, sex, and that sort of thing on the other." Instead, she found many more situations where the line between the right choice and the wrong choice was blurred. She learned, she said, that "you have to actively choose a Christian life, every single day."

Anna and Melissa echoed this idea and spoke of having to frequently make the choice to say "Yes" to God and to a Christian life. One audience member asked, "Have you ever had a point when you weren't sure you could say 'Yes' to God?" Melissa responded that when she first heard the call to become a religious sister, she immediately thought, "Oh no, I can't do that!" Thus her "Yes" to that call has developed over time.

All agreed that support is helpful in living out one's faith. One reason that Anna chose to attend Notre Dame was its supportive environment for her faith. This is something she now enjoys in working for an organization run by a religious order: the workplace is not only a place where co-workers pray together, but a place where they strive to speak kindly to and of one another as well as the people they serve. That can make a big differ-

ence in such stressful work.

Words all three young women brought up again and again were love, patience, and compassion, whether in following one's call, living out the church's social justice teachings, or dealing with people who "don't get it" when it comes to social justice issues or matters of faith. Melissa invoked Dorothy Day's phrase, a revolution of the heart. "How can you transform others if you don't love them?" she asked. She commented that her family does not understand her call to religious life, but she meets their lack of understanding with patience and love. Anna spoke of the need for community: "How can you love the people you serve if you can't love the people closest to you?" Cora mentioned that she keeps in mind times that she has been wrong about something and how she eventually came to a different conclusion.

Finally, the panelists were asked what advice they had for the teenagers in the audience who are looking ahead to their own college and career choices. "Listen for your own call," Anna advised. "Avoid the temptation to compare yourself to someone else or your call to theirs." "Be compassionate with yourself," Cora urged. "If you mess up, you can try again to do and be better." Melissa encouraged them to make the effort to be present and show up for the meaningful things in life. "You can't hear from God if you don't put yourself where God is," she said.

"My personal evangelization is in how I live my life," Anna said at one point during the forum. The same could be said of her co-panelists. All three young women provided inspiration for both the teens and adults present to consider what we are doing, and what we can do, to better live out our Catholic faith.



in our parish library

As we observe the feast of St. Valentine, the patron saint of love, we are reminded to focus on our love for those around us, as well as on others' love and care for us. While Valentine's Day seems to be commercialized, dedicated to selling greeting cards and heart-shaped boxes of chocolates, the original holiday dates back to Valentinus's life in the fifteenth century. It is important to remember, however, that love is to be shared unconditionally and, of course, well beyond the month of February.

February also marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a time for penance and forgiveness. It is a time to reflect on our recent actions, and to consider how to reform them to better understand God's plan for us. This month's recommended readings may help:

▪ **Penance: A Reform Proposal for the Rite**, by James Lopresti (248.4 Lop). How to reform our actions to adapt to God's image for us.

▪ **Spiritual Surrender**, by James A. Krishna (248.4 Kri). Surrendering ourselves to God lets us more fully accept God's plan for us.

▪ **Classic Christianity: Life's Too**

Short to Miss the Real Thing, by Bob George (248.4 Geo). A focus on things that are truly important in life.

▪ **Tools Matter for Practicing the Spiritual Life**, by Mary Margaret Funk (248.4 Fun). The author explores tools that are available to help our daily practice of spirituality.

▪ **All for Her: The Autobiography of Fr. Patrick Peyton** (921 Pey). Fr. Peyton dedicated himself to living the mysteries of the Rosary and bonding with his parishioners through prayer and love.

▪ **How to Form a Catechumenate Team**, by Karen M. Hinman (248 Hin). As we approach Easter, we welcome new catechumens into our faith and our faith community. The author shows how to help catechumens experience this welcoming presence.

The parish library is available on weekdays during office hours; ask for a key at the parish office. It is also open on fourth and fifth Sundays, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

If you need help, our Parish Librarian, Megan Raab (mer1987@sbcglobal.net), will be happy to assist you.

Special volunteer opportunities

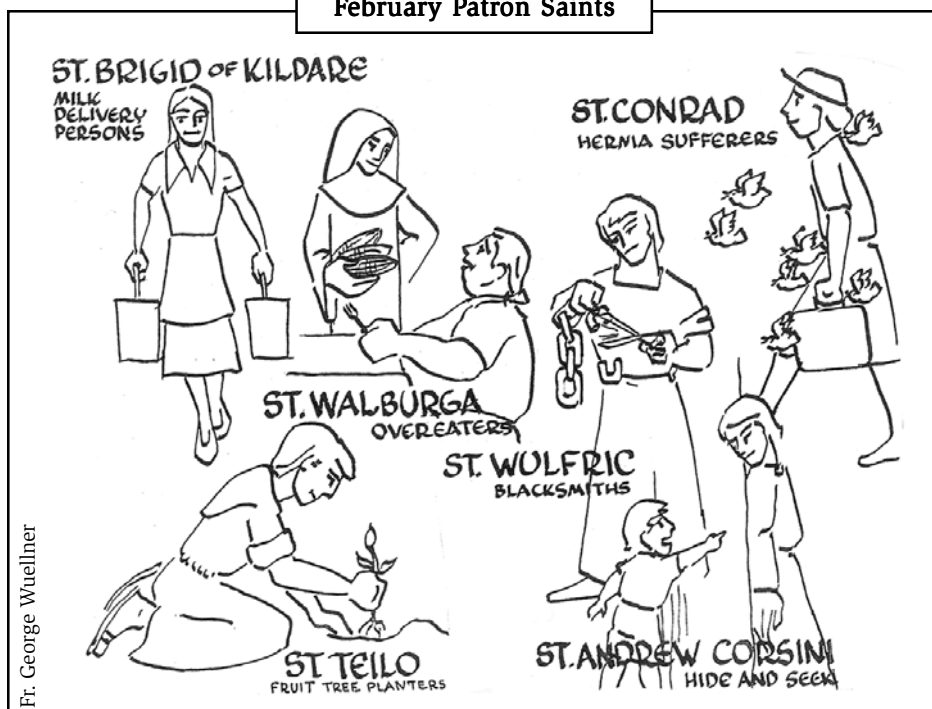
▪ Who sets out hosts and wine for Sunday Mass—the priest? No, it's parishioners just like you! Currently there is real need for a parishioner (or a couple) **to set up for the 7:30 Mass** once or twice a month. If you've ever wanted a very special way to serve your parish priests and people, this is it! *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu*

▪ Wanted—no, needed!—adult and youth **altar servers for funerals**. Volunteers must be available during the day, since most funerals are held on weekday mornings. *Parish Office, 367-2665*



Parish groups or individuals can submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address with a brief description of the kind of help being sought.

February Patron Saints





Q: Why are we expected to register in a parish?

A: It seems commonplace these days for

people to “shop around” for a parish, trying one after another for a good fit. The local Church has generally accommodated this with flexible territorial boundaries.

Enjoying such wide latitude, though, sometimes leads people to neglect to register at any one of these parishes, even after having attended Mass regularly at the same parish church for some time.

Belonging to a parish, however, means much more than going to Mass and putting money into the collection basket. Church law defines a parish as a “specific (stable) community of Christian believers.” In other words, every parish is a fellowship of believing Catholics who help one another and the rest of the community to live out the Gospel of Christ together. The parish priest, staff, and many others in the parish are trying to serve your needs and everyone else’s, and they in turn need your help.

As a general rule, the pastor is responsible for the care of all those within the parish’s territorial boundaries: baptizing, marrying, counseling, burying—providing the full sacramental life of the Church. By registering in a parish you make it your home, with all that this implies. You establish relationships. You share in the life of the faith community. You benefit from the sacramental life of the community.

As a member of the faith community, you also take on some responsibilities, assisting in the necessary works of the Church: its worship, apostolic mission, charities, the care of its ministers, and its care of the poor. In other words, you enjoy all the benefits of belonging and are expected to respond by generously using your God-given talents and abilities for the welfare of all.

For all these reasons it is important, both for you and for the rest of the faith community, that you register in a parish.

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Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office.

Did you know . . . ?

- Sr. Rosemarie Tomlianovich was the first pastoral associate hired to assist the pastor, in 1982. When she retired in 1988, she was succeeded by Sr. Charlene Cesario. Sr. Charlene in turn retired in June 2007, having served at St. Patrick’s for 19 years.

- In the 1980s a portable altar was set up in the multi-purpose room of the parish center, for celebrating weekday Masses and Children’s Liturgy. This practice lasted until 2004.

- St. Patrick’s Parish owns, free and clear, all the apartment buildings on the church’s block. Until they are cleared to make room for the expansion of parish facilities, the parish enjoys a modest net income from rentals: \$34,795 last year, with \$72,650 projected for the current fiscal year (Source: 2011-12 Stewardship Report).

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mary Sleeter

Submitted by Leslie Risatti

Scalloped Corn

1 can cream-style corn
2 eggs
1 c cracker crumbs
1 c milk
Butter



Thoroughly mix corn, eggs, and milk. (Optionally add 1/4 lb grated American cheese and a small can or jar of chopped pimientos.) Pour into buttered casserole. Sprinkle with cracker crumbs and dot with butter. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes or until set. May be made ahead of time and frozen.

If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Ellen Noonan (403-0979, eknoon@comcast.net). The only requirement is that it is easy and quick to prepare!

Vocation Prayer

What is it that God made you for?

What awakens your passion, your creativity, and your sense of being true to yourself?

In other words, what is your calling?

Dear Father, let me be of service to you and your people. Give me courage in times of uncertainty and self-doubt. I surrender to you my old notions of who I should be or could be; I trust in your plan. Lead me safely on this journey so that I may be your instrument.



Until the Next Time

If Jesus played football,
 he'd be an end.
 He'd lope out under the long,
 impossible passes,
 cradle them in his arms,
 or, if he had to, dive for them,
 his fingers owning that space
 between ball and ground.
 On short routes, his sprints, feints,
 and precise cuts
 would fake the defense
 out of their cleats;
 on his feet, still running,
 in a moment of communion
 he'd knock off their helmets
 with a stiff arm.
 Once in for six,
 he'd spike the old pigskin.
 In that spot would sprout a rose,
 or a sunflower.
 By the time time ran out,
 both end zones would bloom
 with roses and sunflowers
 where we would wait for him.
 After his shower,
 he'd appear to us to ask us
 home with him for supper.
 We'd pose for pictures by his side,
 then glide from the stadium together,
 until the next time—
 happy, undefeated, unafraid—
 if Jesus played football.

—William Heyen
Used with permission

To our readers
 from the staff of *In Focus*:



"Happy Valentine's Day!"



St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Please send news items to a Communications Committee member, leave them in the committee's mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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